Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2554
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AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AR (PERON)

SUBJECT: PERON ADDRESSES NATION

- 1. SUMMARY. AN UNSMILING PERON LAST NIGHT SAID WHAT THE MODERATE PERONISTS, AND MOST OF THE REST OF THE NATION, WANTED TO HEAR. REJECTING EXTREMES, HE IN EFFECT CALLED ON HIS COUNTRYMEN TO STOP THE FOOLISHNESS AND GET DOWN TO WORK. HE CALLED FOR INCREASED PRODUCTION, SACRIFICE, FOR A RETURN TO LEGAL ORDER AND FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. THE TASK OF REBUILDING WOULD REQUIRE ALL ARGENTINES, HE SAID, NOT JUST PERONISTS. THOSE WHO HOPE TO INFILTRATE THE MOVEMENT AND CREATE ANARCHY WILL FAIL BECAUSE THEY WILL BE REJECTED BY THE ARGENTINE MASSES. SPEECH APPEARS TO HAVE GIVEN COUNTRY HEART AFTER TRAGIC EVENTS OF MAY 20. END SUMMARY
- 2. FLANKED BY PRESIDENT CAMPORA DN HIS WIFE ISABEL AND WITH LOPEZ REGA AND RAUL LASTIRI STANDING BEHIND HIM, PERON LAST NIGHT ADDRESSED THE NATION FROM HIS HOME IN VICENTE LOPEZ. THERE WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NO DRUMS, NO PERONIST MARCHES OR CHANTS - IN FACT, NONE OF THE TRAPPINGS AND HOURS- LONG DEMOGOGIC HARANGUES OF EARLIER TIMES. THIS WAS NOT A SPEECH FOR HIS PERONIST FOLLOWERS; IT WAS ADDRESSED TO ALL ARGENTINES. PERON APPEALED FOR NATIONAL UNITY, SAYING THE SITUATION WAS SO CRITICAL THAT IT WOULD BE OVERCOME BY ALL RGENTINES WORKING TOGETHER OR IT WOULD NOT BE OVERCOME AT ALL. OUR THEME MUST BE HARDER WORK AND MORE PRODUCTION, HE SAID, AND REPEATED ONE OF HIS FAVORITE SLOGANS: "FROM HOME TO WORK AND FROM WORK BACK HOME." ARGENTINA NOW NEEDED THE BEST AND MOST COMPETENT MEN SHE HAD, NO MATTER WHO THEY WERE, HE SAID. HE CALLED ON THE ARMED FORCES AND ON HIS FRIENDS IN THE HORA DEL PUEBLO TO JOIN WITH THE PERONISTS IN THE GREAT TASK AHEAD.

- 3. ONE DOESN'T REBUILD ARGENTINA BY SHOUTING "MY LIFE FOR PERON," HE SAID SCORNFULLY; ONE SHOWS HIS FAITH BY CARRYING OUT THE TWENTY POINTS OF THE PERONIST CREED. THOSE WHO TRY TO DECEIVE US WITH FALSE SHOUTS WHILE THEY INFILTRATE OUR MOVEMENT WILL NOT SUCCEED, HE DECLARED.
- 4. ANYONE WHO TRIED TO PERTURB THE PEACE THAT WAS NECESSARY FOR RECONSTRUCTION WOULD BE OPPOSED BY MILLIONS OF ARGENTINES, HE SAID. WE MUST RETURN TO LAW AND ORDER, HE URGED, AND WARNED THAT "HE WHO PROVOKES ANARCHY IS THE ENEMY OF THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE."
- 5. IN A CLEAR WARNING TO THE TERRORISTS, HE SAID THERE IS A LIMIT TO THE PATIENCE OF THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE AND OF THE PERONIST MOVEMENT. THE LATTER, HE NOTED OMINOUSLY, WOULD NOT REMAIN INACTIVE IN THE FACE OF THESE ANARCHICAL PROVOCATIONS. NO ONE SHOULD DECIVE THEMSELVES THAT BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN ABSENT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON; HE DID.
- 6. HE URGED THE PEOPLE NOT TO BE DISHEARTENED BY THE SHAKY BEGINNING. AT THE END OF THE ROAD WAS THE GREAT ARGENTINA DESIRED BY ALL; HENCE, ALL ARGENTINES MUST JOIN TOGETHER IN THE TASK. ABOVE ALL, HE CONCLUDED, ARGENTINA MUST PRODUCE MORE.
- 7. COMMENT. THE SPEECH WAS IMMINENTLY SENSIBLE AND MODERATE. IT WAS NOT WHAT THE EXTREMES OF LEFT OR RIGHT WANTED TO HEAR. INDEED, PERON MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY HAD BETTER GET BACK IN THE CENTER MAINSTREAM OR FACE THE CONSEQUENCES. IT WAS NOT BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACCIDENT EITHER THAT LOPEZ REGA AND RAUL LASTIRI, TWO MODERATES, STOOD BEHIND HIM AS HE SPOKE, OR THAT HE RECEIVED MODERATE CABINET MINISTER GELBARD, BENITEZ AND TAIANA DURING THE DAY, WHILE EXCLUDING INTERIOR MINISTER RIGHI.

8. THE PRESS, INCLUDING THE NON-PERONIST PAPERS, HAS REACTED VERY POSITIVELY TO THE SPEECH, AS HAS THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

AFTER THE TRAGIC NATIONAL EMBARRASSMENT OF MAY 20, ARGENTINES
WERE HEARTENED BY PERON'S SENSIBLE WORDS. THE WORDS WERE GOOD.
TRANSLATING THEM INTO ACTION AND CONCRETE PROGRAMS WILL BE
MORE DIFFICULT.
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^{***} Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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